

the Overtimes

News for the People in Montgomery County Government

January/February 2001



On hand to unveil the new ATM machine at the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown were (l to r): Mel Tull, Secretary of the Board (Silver Spring Regional Services Center); Libby Mitchell, President/CEO, MCEFCU; Alan Socolik, Treasurer of the Board (Finance); Joe Sparacino, Chairman of the Board (Finance); and Lisa Lee, Building Manager, Upcounty Regional Services.

County Employees Benefit From Services of Credit Union

The services of the Montgomery County Employees Federal Credit Union (MCEFCU) are available not only to all County employees and retirees, along with their family members, but also to anyone who volunteers in a County government office or agency. And, the advantage of banking with the Credit Union over your neighborhood bank branch is that there are no fees charged for any transactions at the Credit Union owned ATMs – that includes all deposits, withdrawals, transfers and balance inquiries. Nor are there any fees for transactions processed at the Credit Union.

Some employees may not be aware that the Montgomery County Employees Federal Credit Union is a full-service facility, offering its members a full line of services, including vehicle loans, signature loans, line of credit, VISA, first mortgage loans and home equity loans.

Three new services that are currently being tested and will be offered to its members later this year are Internet banking, bill payment that will allow members to pay bills on-line and debit cards.

"We want to get the word out to all county employees, and especially new employees, that we are here to serve their financial needs," said Libby Mitchell, President/CEO of the credit union. "The Credit Union is an employee benefit in Montgomery County that offers employees convenience and competitive banking options."

Montgomery County Employees Federal Credit Union was chartered by and is insured by the federal agency called the National Credit Union Association (NCUA). Currently, more than 13,500 members are served by the County's Credit Union, which includes approximately 75 percent of the County's workforce.

Network of Neighbors

Intimidation or harassment born of prejudices and/or bias is not tolerated in Montgomery County. As a result of this commitment, the Network of Neighbors program was founded on the belief that the local community can play an important role in combating acts of hate and violence. These acts are committed against persons or institutions because of race, religion, ethnicity, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

The goals of the Network of Neighbors include offering support to victims by listening to them, conveying concern and offering reassurance, and restoring a sense of community when acts of hate and violence have occurred.

The program is looking for neighborhood volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or learning more about the program, contact Christine Delcid at the Human Relations Commission at 240-777-8479 or by email at delcidc@co.mo.md.us and provide your name, address, and phone number.

Waste Reduction Tip

To clean drains, try sprinkling half a cup of baking soda in the drain. Pour in one half cup of vinegar. Let stand 15 minutes and flush with hot water. It's less expensive than commercially available drain cleaners, less corrosive on plumbing and reduces hazardous waste.

In Memoriam



Deepest condolences go to Edward C. Grapski, Police, and Kathleen M. Grapski, Recreation, on the sudden and untimely death of their 20-year-old daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, who perished in an automobile accident last November. Lauren was a student at Millersville University in Pennsylvania and was travelling home for the Thanksgiving holiday at the time of the accident. A graduate of Damascus High School, she served as a summer counselor for the Recreation Department summer camp program.

Do You Know These People?

The Office of Human Resources has lost touch with a number of former County employees and is asking for help in locating them. The following individuals are retirees with benefits and it is important that Human Resources obtains current addresses for: Raul Aviles, Elizabeth Ashbaugh, Henry Broadbent, Valerie Charles, Carmine Culletto, Ellen Door, Lola Ann Evans, Pat Francis, Noreen Fisher, Evelyn Leizear, Jerome Miron, Raymond Mulhull, Paul Reese and Clarence Woods.

If you know any of these people, have them call 240-777-5000 to update their address and phone number with Human Resources.

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Sue Tucker, Editor
240/777-6530

Winter Weather Information

County Government Policy During Inclement Weather

Just a reminder to employees that they are expected to report to work as scheduled during inclement winter weather conditions, unless they receive different direction from radio or television news reports.

In a memorandum to Department and Agency Directors dated January 9, 2001, the Chief Administrative Officer reminds all directors, "...that the public have full access to services during normal business hours and that disruptions occur only during the most severe weather events."

The absence of an announcement in the media should be taken to mean that the County Government is open. In those situations when a period of "liberal leave" or "General Emergency" is declared, the media will be notified.

Employees can refer to Administrative Procedure 4-21, Inclement Weather/General Emergencies, for more detailed information regarding this policy.

Volunteers Needed to Help Neighbors

During major snowstorms if you, or someone you know, has time to volunteer a couple of hours to help elderly or disabled residents who need help shoveling their walkways, call the County's Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600. The center serves as a clearinghouse to match those who want to volunteer or give donated goods or services with the 600 public and private nonprofit agencies that are looking for help. During times of emergency, the center implements its Neighbor to Neighbor program and matches volunteers with individuals in need.

2001 Calendar of Events

The Conference and Visitors Bureau of Montgomery County has released its 2001 Calendar of Events, featuring activities and events for all interests and ages. The guide lists events and activities ranging from theatre performances and art

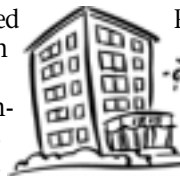
exhibits to events for runners, floral shows, concerts and cultural festivals, flea markets and antique shows.

To get your free copy, call 301-428-9702, or check out the website at www.cvbmontco.com.

New Guide to Rental Facilities

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) has published its 2000 Guide to Rental Facilities in Montgomery County.

Contained in the directory is information provided by landlords for more than 400 rental facilities



in the County. The guide also includes Ride-On and Metro bus routes and the nearest Metro station to each facility. The directory is available free of charge through DHCA, the Housing Opportunities Commission and County libraries.

Overheard On the Elevator

Congratulations to **TIM FIRESTINE**, Finance, and his wife Deborah on the birth of their first child. Alexander Timothy was born on November 20 and weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.

ODESSA SHANNON, Human Relations Commission, was one of 45 invitees nationwide to a White House conference on the President's One America initiative. During the two-day conference participants explored the root causes of racial and ethnic tension, heard from experts on race relations and coalition building

and shared practices and practical measures aimed at eradicating racial tension.

The Overtimes wishes a fond farewell to the following long-time County employees: **Sharron Hartley**, Police, 37 years; **Charles Watkins**, Liquor Control, 34 years; **Thomas Sakraida**, Fire/Rescue Services, 29 years; **Pat Conroy**, Human Resources, 27 years; **Jim Wiltshire**, Recreation, 27 years; **Jean Williams**, Libraries, 27 years; and **Ignatius Gabriel**, Public Works & Transportation, 26 years.

Exercise Your Options



With the holidays behind us and the new year just beginning, it's a great time to start a physical fitness routine to improve your overall health and appearance. The County's Health Yourself office reminds employees that regular exercise is not only good for you, but it carries numerous other benefits as well, including:

- Boosts your energy level;
- Helps prevent/manage stress and depression;
- Enhances recreational activities;
- Reduces risk for heart disease, stroke, cancer, obesity and diabetes;
- Improves sleep quality;
- Reduces body fat and improves muscle tone;
- Improves appearance and self-esteem;
- Increases chances of living a longer and more independent life;
- Improves balance, which in turn reduces risk of falling; and
- Helps manage chronic health conditions including heart disease, depression, diabetes, asthma, osteoporosis, back pain, arthritis and high blood pressure.

The Health Yourself office also has a wide variety of fitness/wellness videos, pamphlets and lifestyle change aides available to employees at no cost. Stop by the offices located at 401 Fleet Street, Suite 103, or call 240-777-5092 or email the staff at HEALTHY@co.mo.md.us.

County Hosts Prepaid College Trust Information Session for Employees

Will you be ready to pay for college for your children? Plan on attending one of two lunchtime information sessions on Wednesday, February 14 to learn more about the Maryland Prepaid College Trust program. The first session will start at 11:30 a.m. and the second will start at 1 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Executive Office Building, lobby level auditorium.

The program's fourth enrollment period is taking place through February 28. A new feature of this year's program is the legislative guarantee, which states that if the Trust should ever experience

a shortfall in any given year, the Governor would be required to put an amount in the budget to cover the shortfall.

The prepaid program offers a variety of tuition plans, payment options and significant tax benefits, including a tax deduction and a State exemption on earnings. Benefits of the program can be used at any of Maryland's public colleges and universities. The ben-

efits can also be applied towards tuition and mandatory fees at public or private colleges and universities throughout the United States, including graduate school.



HR Notes

Office of Human Resources

Benefit Reminder

The County's new prescription card administrator for 2001 is NPA. If you had prescription coverage with Caremark in 2000, you'll need to submit any outstanding claims for reimbursement for 2000 to Caremark before March 31, 2001. Any claim submitted and not entered by that date will not be honored.

Also, participants in the health care or dependent care flexible spending accounts in plan year 2000 must submit any claims for reimbursement of expenses during 2000 to Ceridian no later than March 31, 2001. Any account balances will be forfeited as of March 31, 2001.

February 9 Payday

Employees represented by MCGEO and most unrepresented employees will see a one percent general wage adjustment in paychecks of February 9, 2001. Also, employees eligible for personal leave will see their personal leave days or compensatory time for 2001 reflected on the February 9 pay stub.

Request to Carry Over Annual Leave

Annual leave above the maximum allowable carryover will transfer to sick leave on the pay stub of January 26, 2001. In certain circumstances, you may be eligible to request carryover of the excess amount for a one-year period. To request carryover, send a memo requesting the carryover, approved by your department director, to the Finance Department's Payroll Section, EOB 8th floor, on or before February 16, 2001. Payroll will make the adjustment to your leave balance on the March 23 pay stub. See Personnel Regulations or collective bargaining agreements for more information.

End of Leave Year Affects Compensatory Time

After the end of the leave year, Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) non-exempt employees with compensatory time balances over 80 hours will be paid for the hours over 80 (96 hours for some Fire/Rescue employees) on the paycheck of March 23, 2001. A non-exempt employee may carry over the excess comp time hours for a one-year period by notifying

see, **End of Leave Year** on page 4

HOUSE TO SHARE – Rockville. Two-bdr., one bath, 1920s cape cod bungalow to share with young professional and her Golden Retriever. Large trees, front porch, must see. Walk to EOB and Metro. \$525 + ½ utilities includes cleaning and yard work. \$475 if work is shared. No other pets, please. Available immediately. Call 301-928-1471.

APARTMENT FOR RENT – Gaithersburg. One bdr., den, fireplace. \$800/month, inc. utilities. Call 301-869-8543.

TIMESHARE – Orlando, FL. Two bdr. condo, full amenities, inc. swimming pool, tennis courts. Three miles from Disney World. Call Mark, 301-770-5906.

'95 TOYOTA 4-RUNNER SR5 – silver, fully loaded, CD player, 5-spd., V6. Runs great. 121k miles. \$13,000/best offer. Call 301-416-7469.

'95 PONTIAC SUNFIRE – blue, 5-spd., 4-cyl., sunroof, AM/FM cassette. 67k miles. Great starter car for teenager. \$7,500/best offer. Call Ron, 240-777-1985 or 301-253-6197.

Backpage Bargains

County employees may submit ads, non-commercial only, with name and home and office phone number to Information Office, 4th floor, EOB. **Ads may appear one time only.** Deadline for the next issue is February 28, 2001.

'84 FORD F-150 – extended cab, 4-spd., w/ snowplow. As is, \$3,000. Call Ron, 240-777-1985 or 301-253-6197.

'98 HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE – Heritage Softail Classic, Screaming Eagle advance ignition system & pipes. Lots of chrome, white wall tires, garage kept. Call Rudy, 301-962-1916 or 301-213-6058.

YAMAHA MOTORCYCLE – XVS650 Cruiser Classic, onyx color, Yamaha windshield, leather saddlebags & passenger backrest. Lots of chrome, immaculate condition. \$6,300. Call 301-253-1553.

DINING ROOM SET – inc. leaf and six chairs, good condition. \$225/best offer. Call Bill, 240-777-5507.

FURNITURE – oak highboy and lower dresser with mirror and desk. \$300/set. Call Grace, 240-777-7926.

DISHWASHER – Kenmore Ultra Wash Quiet Guard system, black. Remodeling, must sell. Less than 1 ½ years old. Cost \$450, will sell for \$200. Call Elaine, 240-777-3244.

TREADMILL – Pro-Form J4 electric, Spacesaver, w/one full year Sears in-house service warranty. Speed/distance/calorie burn readings. Excellent condition. \$200. Call 410-551-0221.

DRUM SET – MAPEX low-end, professional 5-pc. sit-down set w/cymbals & cymbal stands. Base drum, 16" floor tom-tom, 12" and 13" tom tom, snare drum, throne, crash cymbal & high hat cymbal. Barely used. \$800. Call 301-253-1553.

DESK – good condition, perfect as student desk or computer desk. \$50/best offer. Call Karen, 240-777-9917.

BABY ITEMS - for sale, new white cribs with mattresses, bouncy seats, infant car seat w/carrier, walkers. Best offer, all items excellent cond., barely used. Call Karen, 240-777-9917.

President's Day Monday, February 19

Presidential Trivia

1. If the president and vice president die in a plane crash, who takes over?
2. If the president is accused of conspiracy, what happens?
3. How many people were president before president Clinton?

Answers below

End of Leave Year

continued from page 3

the Director, Office of Human Resources, before February 16, 2001.

Employees exempt from FLSA coverage will have comp time balances in excess of 80 hours transferred to sick leave. Exempt employees may be eligible to request carryover of the excess comp time for a one-year period. If you are eligible, submit a request to your department or office director before February 9, 2001. Approved requests and all appropriate justification should be forwarded to the Finance Department's Payroll Section by February 16, 2001. See Personnel Regulations or collective bargaining agreements for more information.

Drive With Care Walk With Caution

See the County's home page,
<http://www.co.mo.md.us>,
for pedestrian
safety information

1. Speaker of the House 2. Possible impeachment by Congress 3. 40